

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /062 W
-----075545 041453Z /45
R 040403Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6036
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9140

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, TW
SUBJ: NEWSMAN DENIED TAIWAN ENTRY

REF: A) STATE 180873; B) HONG KONG 8930 C) TAIPEI 4675

1. CHINOY GAVE CONGENOFF DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS AT TAIPEI AIRPORT DURING TIME HE WAS DENIED ENTRY INTO TAIWAN. AFTER DEPLANNING AROUND 4:00 P.M. HE PRESENTED HIS PASSPORT AT IMMIGRATION COUNTER. THE OFFICER TOOK IT ASIDE AND AFTER CONSULTING ANOTHER OFFICIAL WHO MADE SEVERAL PHONE CALLS. THE SECOND OFFICIAL RETURNED AND POLITELY REQUESTED CHINOY TO ACCOMPANY HIM TO A DESK OUTSIDE A SMALL ANTEROOM IN ONE CORNER OF THE IMMIGRATION HALL. AFTER CONFIRMING THAT CHINOY WAS A JOURNALIST, THE OFFICIAL SAID "YOU ARE NOT WELCOME HERE". ASKED WHY ENTRY WAS DENIED, THE OFFICIAL EITHER DID NOT ANSWER OR SAID HE WAS ONLY FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS. ABOUT 4:30, THE OFFICIAL TOOK CHINOY'S PASSPORT BACK TO THE BOOTH AND STAMPED "VOID" OVER VISA.

2. CHINOY THEN ASKED TO USE A TELEPHONE TO CALL THE OFFICIAL'S SUPERIOR AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THE OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT GIVE CHINOY THE NAME OF HIS SUPERIOR WHO HE SAID WAS IN TAIPEI (NOT AT THE AIRPORT) AND THAT CHINOY

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COULD NOT USE THE PHONE ON HIS DESK. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO LECTURE CHINOY ALONG LINES MENTIONED REFTEL B, SAYING THAT US WAS "PICKING ON TAIWAN" AND ASKING WHY NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PRC. CHINOY STATES HE ASKED TO USE THE PHONE TO CALL THE EMBASSY AND CORRESPONDENT FRIENDS IN TAIPEI "AT LEAST SIX TIMES" DURING THE LECTURE, EMPHASIZING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REACH THE EMBASSY BEFORE COB.

THE REQUEST WERE EITHER IGNORED OR REFUSED.

3. AFTER LEARNING HE WAS GOING TO BE DENIED ENTRY, CHINOY ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO INFORM HIS TRAVELING COMPANION, WHO HAD PROCEEDED THROUGH IMMIGRATION INTO THE CUSTOMS AREA, SO THAT SHE COULD RETURN TO HK WITH HIM. THE OFFICIAL INITIALLY REFUSED TO ALLOW THIS BUT AFTER CHINOY BEGAN TO CREATE A SCENE, HE WAS PERMITTED TO PROCEED INTO THE CUSTOMS AREA ACCOMPANIED BY TWO MEN. UPON HIS RETURN, CHINOY AND THE OFFICIAL CONTINUED THEIR TALK DURING WHICH TIME THE SUGGESTION WAS MADE THAT HE WRITE AN ARTICLE FAVORABLE TO THE ROC.

4. CHINOY AND COMPANION WERE "DEPOSITED" IN THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE ABOUT 6:15 AND GIVEN BOARDING PASSES FOR THE 7:00 FLIGHT BACK TO HK. HE USED A PUBLIC TELEPHONE IN ONE OF THE GIFT SHOPS TO CALL MELINDA LIU AND A CBS CAMERA STRINGER DENNIS CHIN AND THEN THE EMBASSY. THE FIRST TWO WERE CALLED IN HOPES THEY COULD ASSIST HIM BY CONTACTING FRIENDS IN THE GOVERNMENT. CHINOY REACHED THE EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER (HE CANNOT REMEMBER THE NAME) WHO AFTER LEARNING THE SITUATION, ASKED HIM TO CALL BACK IN 15-20 MINUTES. ON THE SECOND CALL, THE DUTY OFFICER, WHO HAD CHECKED WITH THE CHIEF OF THE CONSULAR SECTION, SAID SOMEONE COULD BE SENT TO THE AIRPORT. DUE TO LIMITED TIME BEFORE DEPARTURE OF 7:00 FLIGHT IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD CHECK INTO THE SITUATION THE

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NEXT DAY.

5. CHINOY CATEGORICALLY STATED HE REPEATEDLY MADE SPECIFIC REQUESTS TO USE THE PHONE TO CALL THE EMBASSY INDICATING HIS CONCERN ABOUT REACHING THEM BEFORE COB. THERE WERE NO PUBLIC PHONES IN THE IMMIGRATION HALL AND CHINOY DID NOT TRY TO USE THE PHONE ON THE OFFICIAL'S DESK AFTER HIS REQUEST WAS REFUSED. ALTHOUGH HE WAS NEVER TOUCHED PHYSICALLY, HE WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT FREE TO GET UP AND GO TO A PUBLIC TELEPHONE IN THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE. THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHER MEN AROUND HIM AND HE BELIEVES HE MAY REPEAT MAY HAVE BEEN RESTRAINED FROM LEAVING. CHINOY TALKED WITH THE OFFICIAL IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE.

6. CHINOY IS NOT SURE WHO THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTED BUT BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE AIRPORT SECURITY. AS HE REMEMBERS, THE OFFICIAL WAS WEARING SOME TYPE OF UNIFORM WITH THE ROC EMBLEM ON IT.

7. CHINOY ADDED THAT THE CBS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON INQUIRED ABOUT THE INCIDENT AT THE ROC EMBASSY AND WAS INFORMED HE IS BANNED INDEFINITELY. CBS ALSO REPORTEDLY HAS SEND OR

PLANS TO SEND A WRITTEN PROTEST TO THE ROC EMBASSY ALTHOUGH
CHINOY HAS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS.

8. UPON RECEIPT REFTEL C, CHINOY WAS ASKED ABOUT PROMISED
LETTER. HE REGRETS PRESSURE OF WORK HAS PREVENTED HIS SENDING
IT, BUT SAID HE WOULD TRY TO SEND LETTER OF COUNSELOR FOR
COUNSULAR AFFAIRS THROUGH CONGEN THIS WEEK. WE WILL POUCH
TO PAIPEI WITH COPY TO DEPARTMENT EA/ROC. WE WILL CABLE IF
LETTER CONTAINS ANY NEW DETAILS.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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